

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00375 242325Z

61/43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O P 241559Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6728
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 0375

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT THROUGHOUT)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR JO US LE SY XF
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE KING ON LEBANON

REF: SECTO 10165

SUMMARY: PASSED ON TO KING SECRETARY'S MESSAGE REGARDING
APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON HIS TALKS IN AMASCUS
OUR NEGATIVE REACTION TO IDEA OF JORDAN-SYRIA GUARANTEE
FORCE FOR LEBANON, AND FOR UR INTEREST IN KEEPING IN
TOUCH(REFTEL) KING REPORTED THAT ASAD SEEMED TO BE MORE RELAXED
THAT SYRIANS WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO WORK OUT
BASIS FOR STABLE CEASEFIRE AND FOR SETTLEMENT
IN LEBANON AND THAT PLO SEEMS TO BE COOPERATING WITH
LEBANONESE AUTHORITIES AGAINST LOOTERS. KING PLANS
HUMANITARIAN AID FOR LEBANON AS SOON AS ROADS ARE
OPEN. KING WOULD STILL LIKE TO KEEP OPEN IDEA OF
JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE FOR LEBANON IN
SITUATION WHERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES MIGHT
BE FORCECLOSED OR UNWORKABLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. I WAS BACK IN TOUCH WITH KING JANUARY 24. AS IN
STRUCTURED REFTEL, I THANKED HIM FOR HIS ACCOUNTS OF THE

PICTURE IN DAMASCUS SAID IT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION AND HAD ACCORDED WITH OUR
INFORMATION. GIVEN FACT THAT SITUATION HAS MOVED ON
SOMEWHAT I TOLD HIM THAT YOU HAD CONSIDERED THE IDEA
OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE AND AT THE TIME IT
HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN KING AND ME, IT LOOKED TO
YOU AS AN IDEA HAVING EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL AND ONE
THAT WOULD LEAD TO ISRAELI INTERVENTION. I REPEATED
THAT OBVIOUSLY WE HAD DONE ALL WE COULD AS YOU HAD
INDICATED PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO DAMASCUS TO HOLD
ISRAELIS BACK AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

2. THE KING INDICATED THAT HE HAD JUST TALKED WITH
ASAD BY PHONE AGAIN. ASAD SEEMED TO BE MUCH MORE
RELAXED ABOUT WHAT WAS HEPPENING. HE HAD HANDPICKED
ALL OF THE SYRIANS PARTICIPATING IN WHAT I NOW UNDER
STAND ARE 25 TEAMS TO OVERSEE AND CONTROL AREAS IN LEBANON
OF SPECIFICALLY HIGH THREAT OF A NEW OUTBREAK.
APPARENTLY THERE WILL BE
THREE SYRIANS ON EACH OF THESE TEAMS. KING URGED
AND ASAD PROMISED, TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL THAT
SYRIANS ARE CHOSEN WHO CAN ACT WITH UNDERSTANDING
IN THE PRESENT DIFFICULT SITUATION.

3. KING AND I EXCHANGED NOTES ON PRESENT SITUATION
AND I DREW HEAVILY ON BEIRUT 0768(NOTAL) KING TOLD
ME HAD HAS JUST HAD A CONFIRMED REPORT FROM HIS EMBASSY
IN BEIRUT THAT PLO IS ACTING AGAINST LOOTING AND LOOTERS
IN WESTERN PART OF CITY. THEY ARE TAKING SUMMARY ACTIONS
AGAINST PROPERTY(VEHICLES) OF INDIVIDUAL LOOTING AND
TURNING LOOTERS OVER TO LEBANESE OFFICIALS FOR
FURTHER PUNISHMENT. THIS I TOLD HIM ACCORDED WITH
OUR OWN INFORMATION.

4. KING SAID HE HAD READIED QUITE A LARGE AMOUNT OF
HUMANITARIAN AID (MOSTLY FOOD AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE) IN
RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM LEBANESE AUTHORITIES.
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AS SOON AS ROADS WERE OPENED HE PLANNED TO SEND THE
ASSISTANCE FORWARD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JORDANIAN
GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD GIVE MODERATE AMOUNT OF LOCAL
PUBLICITY TO THIS EFFORT IN THE HOPES OF STIMULATING
OTHER ARAB STATES TO DO THE SAME-- "IF A SMALL STATE LIKE
JORDAN COULD DO SO, PERHAPS OTHER WOULD ALSO
CONTRIBUTE".

5. HE ADDED THAT CHAMOUN WAS STILL BEING DIFFICULT. HE WAS CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION BETWEEN CHAMOUN AND SYRIANS AND AT ONE POINT BOTH WERE REFUSING TO SEE EACH OTHER. HE SAID HE HAD INTERFERED AND AS A RESULT THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING BETWEEN KHADDAM AND CHAMOUN.

6. I WOUND UP THIS PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION BY TELLING KING WE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT AND THAT AS ALWAYS WE VALUED HIS THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS KING SAID HE WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PASS ON TO HIM. HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE, AND HE WOULD ONLY DO SO IF THERE WERE NO OTHER WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THAT DID NOT LOOK NECESSARY NOW BUT HE WISHED TO RESERVE FINAL JUDGEMENT ON THE IDEA. LASTLY HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU HIS GREETING AND VERY BEST WISHES.
PICKERING

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARBITRATION, TRUCE OBSERVERS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN00375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0760
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760125/aaaaavwg.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 SECTO 10165
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR THE KING ON LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, LE, SY, XF, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006